

Austin Police Department Auto Theft/Burglary of Vehicle Crime Statistics

Information obtained from APD Property Crime Statistics (March 1 – 31, 2014)

Auto Thefts	Auto Thefts	Auto Thefts
Year to Date 2013	Year to Date 2014	% Year to Date Change
558	565	1%
Burglary of Vehicle	Burglary of Vehicle	Burglary of Vehicle
Year to Date 2013	Year to Date 2014	% Year to Date Change
3,034	2,460	-19%

Major patterns for auto thefts during the month of March 2014 were:

- Trucks: 36 cases – an increase compared to 25 cases the month of February
- Hondas: 24 cases (mid 90s,) a significant decrease compared to 48 cases the month of February
- Motorcycles: 11 cases – an increase compared to 5 cases the month of February
- In 45% of auto thefts, keys were used to steal the vehicles (keys left in vehicle, lost keys, etc.)
- **Auto Thefts at area gyms where vehicle keys were stolen from locker room emerged in January**

APD reminds you to take safety precautions. It only takes seconds for a thief to take your items, your identity and sometimes your car. Don't give a thief an opportunity to commit these crimes.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

- Lock your car and take your keys
- Never leave your car running even if you'll only be gone for a minute – leaving your key in an unattended motor vehicle is a crime in Texas
- Never hide a spare key or a second set of keys in or about your car – Extra keys are easily found by thieves.
- Secure your belongings – Don't attractive thieves by leaving valuables in plain view.
- Invest in vehicle and motorcycle theft deterrents – wheel locks, steering lock, tracking device, kill switch, etc. APD offers FREE VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) etching.
- When buying from a private individual, make sure the title and registration are signed and match the name and address of the person selling the car. For title history report: www.txDMV.gov

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<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/auto-theft>

